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FROM: Beirut

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 906, September 25,

SENT DEPARTMENT 906, REPEATED INFORMATION AMMAN 189, ANKARA 64,
BAGHDAD 124, LONDON 92, PARIS 98, TEL AVIV 110, CAIRO
DAMASCUS, JIDDA UNNUMBERED.

All Lebanese papers today stress importance Saud visit to
Damascus while pro-government papers say Saud's aim is to
turn Syria from its current policy, extreme nationalist
papers say it is to reaffirm his support for Arab liberation
and that visit "will refute imperialist allegations that Saudi
Arabia was worried over the situation in Syria".

Several papers say Kuwwatly and Saud may plan a meeting with
Nasser and one notes that Vice Admiral Kotov, commander of
the Soviet ships now (repeat now) in Latakia will partici-
pate in Saud's reception.

Visit has been preceded by favorable pronouncements on
Syro-Lebanese relations. Most Lebanese papers yesterday
quoted various Ministers after Monday's cabinet meeting
as saying relations definitely better. All papers yesterday
carried story of Minister Foreign Officer's short but friend-
ly reply to Syrian note re Henderson visit. (EMBTel 882).

Editorial in AN-NAHAR regrets that two days before Saud's
arrival General Bizri sharply condemned US for criminal
plotting whereas Crown Prince Feisal, after interview with
President Eisenhower, talked glowingly of Saudi friendship
for US. Writer went on to say word "fear" was misunderstood
by Lebanese press and people; it was not (repeat not) fear
"of" Syria, but fear "for" Syria's safety that existed today,
not (repeat not) only in Lebanon but in Jordan, Iraq, Saudi
Arabia and in many parts of Syria itself. Moreover, it was
too bad there was no (repeat no) one like Nasser, who was
able to control leftist influence in Egypt, at the helm in
Syria.

In other

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-2- 906, September 25, 5 p.m. from Beirut

In other comments on Homs Military Academy speeches by "Syria's B and K" (Bizri and Kuwwatly), extreme nationalist press is laudatory, but phalangist EL-AMAL expresses opinion that Bizri was not (repeat not) referring to Arab states when he said Syria had many supporters. "If Syria really feels the dangers about which its leaders talk day and night, why doesn't she meet with Arab states instead of challenging them?" it asks.

HEATH

RSP:JVC/9

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